

# Transportation Digest

Fall 2000

Volume 9 Number 2

Rhode Island Department of Transportation Newsletter

## *A safer crossing across Smith Street between RIDOT and the State House*

RIDOT has completed constructing its first traffic calming effort, and it is right at our front door. The project, a pedestrian crossing of Smith St. between RIDOT headquarters and the State House, was the result of long-standing concern about high speed traffic and pedestrians in the area.

The project, with a raised crosswalk, is intended to slow down traffic and make the crosswalk more attractive. It also encourages pedestrians to cross at the walk rather than at various spots along the block.

Smith Street still has four lanes of traffic, but the crosswalk itself is shorter. RIDOT lost no legal parking spaces, but the sidewalk was extended out eight feet into the street and for 30 feet in each direction beyond the crosswalk on each side of Smith St.



**CROSSWALK** across Smith St. between RIDOT and the State House was under construction when these photos were taken in late October.

The 'bumpout' made the crosswalk shorter, and gives better visibility to both pedestrians and motorists.

Site Tech Corp. had the contract for the \$123,288 project, which was completed in November.

**Somebody we all know had a very special birthday over Labor Day weekend, and his office managed to make the celebration a BIG SURPRISE! Page 6.**



**A BETTER ENVIRONMENT:** Right and below, both contracted and volunteer efforts are helping to make RIDOT headquarters a better, safer and more beautiful place to work. See story, this page, and Director's column, page 2.



*Recycle this issue - pass it on!*

## Director's Message

This fall, I campaigned across the state for passage of a \$62 million transportation referendum. I have asked people, "Are our roads better today than they were two years ago?" Most everyone answered "yes."



**Director Ankner**

We have been striving to make our highways and bridges the best they can be, and with the approval of the new bond money, we can do even more.

We continue to "Fix it First," putting dollars towards those roadways that are in need of attention first, and only then putting funds towards other projects. We have created a list of priorities, priorities that make good economic sense for Rhode Island and which help to maintain the existing infrastructure.

Our funding sources for transportation improvements come not only from the

\$60 million in bond money, but from \$360 million in Federal Highway dollars, \$14 million in gas tax dollars, and other sources including \$16 million in RIDOT real estate sales and Department of Environmental Management bond funds.

These resources will be shared by a wide assortment of projects:

Bicycle Projects	\$ 23,000,000
Bridge Projects	\$70,000,000
Enhancement Projects	\$13,000,000
Highway Projects	\$257,000,000
Interstate Projects	\$30,000,000
Resurfacing and Pavement Management	\$40,000,000

Without passage of the Transportation Bond there would have been no way to secure the dollars necessary to continue the upgrading of the State's roads and bridges.

On November 7, Rhode Islanders chose to keep Rhode Island on the right path, and provided the means so that RIDOT can keep providing smooth roads, beautiful bike paths, and scenic bridges.

I am also happy that we are beginning to see some real improvements to our headquarters facility at Two Capitol Hill. A RIDOT project, which will be complete before the end of the year, is improving the pedestrian crossing between our building and the State House.

This crossing is used not only by RIDOT staffers, but is often used by State House employees and by the staff at the Department of Administration. We'll all be safer crossing Smith Street once the improvements are in place.

DOT's building staff is currently making its way around the second floor, painting walls white and replacing old carpeting with shining new tile.

None of this diminishes the outstanding dedication and commitment of LuAnne Powers and of the Materials staff with their Adopt-A-Spots adjacent to our building. The sites are beautiful! LuAnne took over the Design Section site alone when Ken Burke left the Department earlier this year, and we should all thank her for her effort.

## TRAC program is underway for the school year

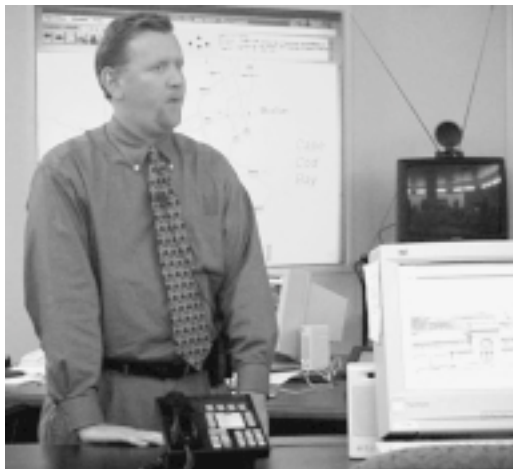
**By Melanie DeJesus**

RIDOT held its 2000 Fall TRAC (Transportation Research Assistance Center) Kickoff in mid-October. Teachers, students and engineers who participate in the TRAC program attended a day of presentations, tours and fun. RIDOT staff and Raquel Araujo of SER (Service Employment and Redevelopment) facilitated the day's events.

Lib Jamison, Portland Arts and Technology High School teacher and an instructor of Women in Technology came from Maine to introduce the school bridge building competition that RIDOT TRAC will sponsor in the spring. Teachers were given Bridge Building kits for their classrooms and provided vouchers for the classroom supplies they will need.

The day also included Rhode Island trivia and prizes. TRAC T-shirts were

awarded to anyone who could answer questions such as, "Where will the last Rhode Island exit off I-295 northbound take you?" Special prizes were awarded to one teacher, student and engineer who could answer more difficult questions such as, "What was I-95 originally known as?"



**VISIT TO THE TMC:** The Fall TRAC kickoff program ended with a visit to the Transportation Management Center. Keith Bynum, left, reviewed the facility's functions with TRAC participants and their teachers.



## ASCE fall schedule

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) held a joint dinner meeting October 24 with the Providence Engineering Society at the Pawtucket Country Club in Pawtucket. Joseph Schall, Jr. of the RIDOT Transportation Management Center was the guest speaker, with a presentation on the TMC.

The organization's next meeting is a joint meeting with the URI Chapter scheduled for November 16.

The Rhode Island Society of Professional Engineers (RISPE) is accepting nominations for their Engineer of the Year. Nominations must be addressed to RISPE and received at the office of the Providence Engineering Society, P.O. Box 16610, 9 Newman Avenue, East Providence, RI 02916, no later than December 15, 2000.

## RIDOT, all NE transportation agencies to be cited for *Breaking the Mold*

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation will receive a National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) Gold Award in the Breaking the Mold category for its work in the New England Transportation Technician Certification Program (NETTCP). The award will be presented to each of the six New England states on November 15 in Dallas, Texas. Rhode Island's nomination was written by David L. Amalfitano of the Materials Section and submitted by Wendall J. Flanders, P.E., Chief Engineer/Operations.

The NETTCP is an effort by the six New England states to increase the knowledge of field technicians, reduce problems associated with test result differences, increase reciprocity by eliminat-

ing individual state certification, and move forward with standardization of test methods and test procedures used by the six states.

The NPHQ selection was ranked according to measurement of quality end result/customer focus, originality/ingenuity of innovation, cooperation involved in innovation, implementation of innovation by respective organization, and cost/time savings. The organization was formerly the National Quality Initiative (NQI).

RIDOT Materials Section representatives on the NETTCP Board of Directors include Jan J. Bak, David L. Amalfitano and Mark E. Felag. The NETTCP previously won an AASHTO Quality Award in the Trailblazer Category.

## Promoting information technology in transportation

By Cynthia Levesque

Promoting information technology in transportation to save lives, time and money, and improve the quality of life is the mission of the Intelligent Transportation Society. The Rhode Island Chapter held its Kick-Off meeting on Tuesday, October 17. More than 60 people from the public and private sectors attended.

The purpose of the meeting was to solidify the presence of ITS as an important initiative for managing transportation in Rhode Island. The panel discussion centered on "Accomplishing the ITS Mission" given the competing forces for funds and support.



Panel members were: William D. Ankner, Ph.D. (RIDOT Director), Edward J. Scott, (RIPTA), John O'Brien (RI Department of Administration/State-wide Planning), Wayne Lee, Ph.D., URI Transportation Center, Daniel Berman, FHWA, and Richard Doyle, Federal Transit Administration. In addition to

the presentations, participants were invited to a tour of the RIDOT Transportation Management Center to get a firsthand look at the closed circuit camera images that are being transmitted to the Center during the preliminary installation and testing period.

Members of the ITS Rhode Island Chapter's Advisory Committee are William Ankner, Director of RIDOT; Colonel Edmund Culhane, Jr. Superintendent, RI State Police; Beverly Scott, General Manager RIPTA; Elaine Roberts, Director, RI Airport Corporation; Melisa Ridenour, Division Administrator of the FHWA; James Suzman, Director Smithfield DPW; Robert Carothers, President URI; Joseph Hagan, President RWU; V.K. Unni, VP Bryant College; Frank Romeo, Past President RICE; Robert Blasi, Fiberoptic Display Systems; Robert Murray, Sr. VP AAA; and William McNamara, Ocean State Signal.



**ITS HAS ARRIVED:** Mike DeFusco, left, and Miguel Souza, right, at the RIDOT TMC, checking information from camera images on display. Top and left, attendees at the ITSRI kick-off.

# State of Rhode Island Career Service Awards

**Anniversaries January through August 2000**

## 35 Years

Joseph C. D'Ambra, Highway Maintenance  
John T. Vorro, Design

## 30 Years

James R. Capaldi, Chief Engineer/Engineering  
David L. Farrell, Highway Maintenance Headquarters  
Craig W. Hallene, Highway Maintenance Belleville  
Richard Levesque, Highway Maintenance Portsmouth  
J.E. Naylor Jr., Highway Maintenance Headquarters  
Bernard M. Robertson, Hwy. Maintenance Hope Valley  
Edward J. Walsh, Highway Safety

## 25 Years

Louis Baldassare, Highway Maintenance Midstate  
Robert Bourgeois, Construction  
Patrick M. Brown, Survey  
Fred S. Corey, Highway Maintenance Headquarters  
John W. Fanning, Highway Maintenance Gloucester  
Robert E. Fisher Jr., Materials  
Michael J. Gaston, Survey  
Robert B. Jackson, Real Estate  
Edward I. Lemire, Highway Maintenance



**25 YEARS: Edward Lemire of Highway Maintenance in Providence, recognized by Director Ankner for 25 years of service.**

nance Providence  
John Ottaviano, Highway Maintenance Gloucester  
Paul E. Pysz, Human Resources  
Paul J. Silva, Policy & Planning  
Edward S. Szymanski, Chief Engineer's Office/Environmental  
Peter G. Tiernan, Highway Maintenance  
Henry W. Whitford, Construction

## 20 Years

Joseph A. Anzelone, Real Estate  
Jesse R. Bradley IV, Construction  
Irene Capotosto, Federal Programs  
Raymond A. Castigliero, Construction  
Stephanie A. Coccia, Design  
Donald H. Courtemanche, Highway Maintenance Traffic  
Daniel T. DiBiasio, Policy & Community Affairs  
James J. Garcia, Highway Maintenance Portsmouth  
Denise Marie Hassell, Hwy. Maintenance Headquarters  
Clement W. Labine Jr., Construction  
Edward P. Laurenzo, Construction  
Jeffrey F. Nietupski, Hwy. Maintenance Midstate  
Michael O'Malley, Construction  
Thomas J. Pandolfini, Sr., Construction  
Wayne E. Pelletier, Construction  
Vincent D. Slavin, Highway Maintenance E. Providence  
John S. Spicola, Finals  
John D. Travisono, Hwy. Maintenance Scituate

## 15 Years

Arthur G. Bovis, Engineering/Chief Engineer's Office  
Sheleen M. Clarke, Design  
Frank Corrao III, Design  
Steven L. Drager, Intermodal Planning  
Robert F. Fasciano, Construction  
Michael A. Hebert, Design  
Richard E. Heon, Construction  
Robert W. Kay, Real Estate  
Nicholas D. Mainelli Jr., Materials  
Roland O. Omisore, Construction  
Richard J. Raczewski, Construction  
Frances A. Segerson, Public Affairs  
Daniel P. Socree, Construction  
James R. Sullivan, Construction  
Emile E. Ziadeh, Design

## 10 Years

August J. Bigos Jr., Hwy Maint. Lincoln Facility  
Robert D. Booth, Hwy. Maint. Bridge  
Gary E. Bowen, Design  
Stephen Damario, Construction  
Michael J. DeRotto, Design  
Peter A. DeSimone, Construction  
Cindy DiGiglio, Hwy. Maint. Headquarters  
Lisa DiStefano, Transportation Support  
Carole A. Edmonds, Office of the Director  
Christopher J. Faraone, MIS  
Russell D. Flamand, Hwy. Maint. Bridge  
John Gomes Jr., Hwy. Maint. Bridge  
Prince Graham, Construction  
Peter A. Healey, Design  
Dennis R. Ledo, Design  
John A. Manzi, Jr., Hwy. Maint. Bridge  
Anita M. Marshall, Design  
Richard Nery, Hwy. Maint. Bridge  
Everett C. Sammartino Jr., TMC  
Robert W. Saunders, Hwy. Maint. Bridge  
Michael L. Savella, Design  
Duane F. Soares, Construction  
John F. Spiezio, Hwy. Maint. Bridge  
Elaine P. Ventura, Office of the Director



**20 YEARS: Stephanie Coccia of Design, recognized by Director Ankner for 20 years of service.**



## RIDOT's own female hockey star - Nikki Thomson

By Kim Moniz

Nicole Thomson, a MIS/GIS employee at RIDOT, has been a member of the Providence Lady Reds for almost a year. Playing for a small hockey league run by the DEM where she worked until January of 1999, Thomson met Mike Rodrigues, the Lady Red's coach. He persuaded her to check out his team and invited her to attend some of their practices. After only a few such practices, Thomson joined the Lady Reds' Developmental League as a goalie. Soon after, her husband Ross, who also played on the DEM hockey team, became a coach for the Lady Reds.

Besides the Lady Reds' developmental league for which Thomson plays, there is also a traveling team, a club team, midget teams, and pee-wee teams. Women from three years old to retirement are welcome as Lady Reds. No experience is necessary; some Lady Reds have been skating since they could walk and others had never been on the ice before the first practice. Practices are year round and games are about once a week from September to April. Although the schedule sounds rigorous, Thomson says that it is perfect for those who love the game. Being on the Lady Reds has not only let her learn about and play hockey, but has also allowed her to find good friends in her teammates.

As of October, the Travel Team is undefeated with one tie. The Providence Lady Reds play most games at the Route 146 Ice Rink in North Smithfield. Admission is free and open to the public. The Providence Lady Reds' official website, [www.ladyreds.com](http://www.ladyreds.com), has all the information on game times and sites as well as information on how to become a Lady Red.

## Forget figure eights



**COMPETITION:** Nikki Thomson, of Warwick, the Red team goalie, makes a save against the Gray team during a game Monday at the Rhode Island Members of the Gray team, below, stretch before the start of the contest. Both teams are part of the 150-player Rhode Island Women's Developmental League.

**by PATRICIA A. REYNOLDS**  
Special writer for the  
Providence Journal. Thomson scored up her  
share of shutouts before she  
retired in elementary school.



**RIDOT has experience with women hockey goalies, specifically Sara DeCosta, Gold Medal winner on the 1996 US Women's Hockey Team and GOHS seatbelt spokeswoman. Nikki Thomson, of RIDOT MIS/GIS, is seen here in a Providence Journal clipping. RIDOT Communications intern Kim Moniz interviewed Nikki about her experience with the Lady Reds, and Thomson was persuasive. Says Moniz "I'm sold on it....I want to be a hockey player!"**

## Chainsaw safety topic of Maintenance training

Story and photo by John Marchwicki

In mid-November, 150 employees from the Maintenance Section participated in a "Chainsaw Safety Workshop". The



**NEW ONE:** Bernie Wilson of the Portsmouth Maintenance Facility shows the new chainsaw he won at a training program.

workshops were held at the Pottersville Volunteer Fire Station in on the grounds of the Scituate Reservoir.

The workshops were conducted by Tim Ard, of "Forest Training Applications" from Hiram, Georgia. Ard's organization provides safety training to government agencies and private organizations worldwide, including the U.S. Forestry Service. His presentation highlighted protective gear, reactive forces involved in tree trimming and felling, sawchain maintenance and safe chain saw operating procedures.

Ard's approach to safety applies beyond just chain saws. He focuses on safety as integral to the workplace and the production process, which applies to operating weed trimmers, mowers and other equipment.

Over two days, several employees won items such as protective chaps, hard hats incorporating protective face screens and built in hearing protection, and videotapes depicting various chain saw operating techniques.

Bernie Wilson received a brand new Husqvarna chainsaw valued at \$700.00. Bernie is a 25 year veteran of DOT Maintenance who recently transferred from the East Providence facility to the Portsmouth facility. He is an avid woodcutter both at work and at home. In order to win the chainsaw, Bernie had to hold the 15-pound chainsaw out in front of him for five minutes in front of the class.

The training is part of a continuing effort established by Wendall J. Flanders, P.E., Chief Engineer/Operations, and Director William D. Ankner, Ph.d., to help make RIDOT the safest transportation agency in the nation.

## We can help

Both Louise Coppola of Property Management and Susan Shanley-Szala of Intermodal Transportation Planning have been seriously ill. If you wish to offer assistance for Louise call Tony DeQuattro (4547) or Tim Harris (4543); for Susan call Carol Adams (4025).

## Caution: Drunk Drivers At Work Campaign

After ten years of trying, RIDOT succeeded in convincing the General Assembly to lower the State's legal BAC (blood alcohol content) from .10 to .08. It was done by making the situation tangible – by using real Rhode Islanders... neighbors, friends and family who had been victims of drunk driving.

MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) helped find victims and their families to be spokespeople. The result was 6 print ads, 1,009 radio ads, and 280 television ads, 27 highway billboards, 150,000 direct mail cards, 50,000 palm cards, and about 10 media events.

Real people prove to be more effective than statistics. By presenting the five-featured victims to Rhode Islanders, RIDOT felt it could have an overwhelming opportunity to make an impact. Now citizens had a chance to meet these individuals and contemplate the consequences of drinking and driving.

The General Assembly passed a gradu-



**AWARD WINNERS:** Participating in the development of RIDOT's .08 campaign were, left to right, Director William D. Ankner, Thomas A. Taylor, President and CEO of Amica Mutual Insurance

ated alcohol bill, reducing the legal BAC from .10 to .08 for purposes of determin-

Co., Edward J. Walsh, Administrator, GOHS, Dana Alexander Nolf, RIDOT Chief of Communications, and Frank McMahon, Partner, McMahon Preston Communications.

ing whether an individual is a DWI (driving while intoxicated) offender.

## RIDOT Memorial Fund held two Golf Tournaments

The RIDOT Summer Golf Tournament, held August 21 after being postponed, attracted over 150 players, and raised over \$9,000.

Ray Castigliero's team took first place. Ed Parker was the finalist in the \$10,000 putting contest and won a roundtrip airline ticket on Southwest.

Dave Fish was a finalist in the \$1,000,000 hole-in-one contest. He didn't make the hole in one but he came closest to the pin and also won a roundtrip airline ticket on Southwest Airlines!

Volunteers for the tournament were Lisa Andrews, Beth Cerroni, Cliff Cherry, Jack Cullen, Jim Fleming, Jessy Green, Kevin Horning, John Lamanna, Marilyn Libucha, Trish Molloy, Mona Monarchi, Cyndi Octeau, Karlene Octeau, Sherrie Oliveri, Alice Thomas, Cheryl Wilkes, and Stephanie Wilkes.

The Association also held its first annual Fall Golf Tournament on Sunday Oc-

tober 8 at the Cranston Country Club.

The RIDOT Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Committee includes Serge Boudreault, John Brock, Joe D'Ambra, Dan DiBiasio, John Iglozzi, Bill McCarthy, Despina Metakos, and Jo Taylor-Prata.



**SNOW PLOW RODEO:** The 7th annual Snow Plow Rodeo was held September 29 at the Narragansett Town Beach. The Rhode Island Public Works Association and the Narragansett Public Works Department served as hosts for the event. Winners for the 2000 Snow Plow Rodeo were Jimmy Annis and Brett Mancieri of the Town of Bristol, seen above with their trophies.

## Happy Birthday to Paul Pysz



It's not every day that the RIDOT's Human Resources Administrator has a birthday! Paul's friends made sure he didn't forget it!







**REPAIRING STONE WALLS:** Kevin Baker, at left in left photo above, an instructor at RISD and at Historic Casey Farm in stone wall design and repair, recently presented a daylong refresher course in repair of New England Dry Stone Walls for eight masons from RIDOT Maintenance.

### *Carrier and Martucci Win SECA Award*

Paul Carrier and John Martucci of the Materials Section recently received a Chairman's Citation for the 1999 State Employee Charitable Appeal (SECA) Campaign. There were only three citations given statewide for exceptional effort and commitment to the campaign. Congratulations to you both!

### *A girl for Vera Querceto*

Vera Querceto (RIDOT's Legal Office) and her husband Mark



are the proud parents of Loretta Oliviani, born July 18. Loretta,

who's showing a pretty smile here at three months, weighed 5 lb., 9 oz. The family lives in Johnston.

### *Materials Section wins Volleyball League*

The Materials Section won the Rhode Island State Employees Volleyball League for the second year in a row. Materials came back from a 3-1 deficit in games in the finals by winning three in a row. Team members include Jeff DiFilippo, Jose Lima, Haytham Awad, Sue Donahue, Ron Lee, Dave Amalfitano, Kerrie Vizzacco and Ian Frament. Congratulations!

### *More fun while traveling*

If you're heading to Orlando this winter, stop by the Personnel Office for special savings at the Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks, hotel, rental car and special vacation packages, as well as Six Flags, Universal Studios and Disney parks.



As part of the course, the group rebuilt dry stone walls along Rte. 138 in Jamestown that had been damaged by motor vehicles collisions. Attending were William Machado, William Botelho, Albert Scatto, David Goglia, Mario Marcocia, Steven Casalino and Emanuel Martins.

### *New hires and retirees*

New hires this fall are: Suzanne M. Amerault, Contract & Specs; James E. Barden, Jr., Highway Safety; Christine L. Caroppoli, Federal Programs; Lori A. Ferraro, Audit; Donald Sharp, Environmental Engineering; Elizabeth J. Swartz, Policy/Planning; Harris K. Weiner, Office of the Director; Charles D. Wick, Legal; Steven Casalino, Christopher K. Emery, James J. Lewis and Michael Moschetti, Highway Maintenance.

Retirees this fall included Charles M. Ambessi of Highway Maintenance.



**MYSTERY MAN** - recognize this current RIDOT employee? He's seen here with the 'Eight is Enough' look so popular 20 years ago. (Answer below)

## Transportation Digest

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**The Mystery Man is Gary Tella of RIDOT Construction.**

## Three awards go to RIDOT Communications

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation's (RIDOT) public information and education campaign on alcohol awareness to lower the state's blood alcohol limit law from .10 to .08 has won three national awards for excellence

In June RIDOT's Office of Communica-

tions, the Governor's Office on Highway Safety and their consultant, McMahon Preston Communications were recognized as a "Best Practices" by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The campaign was presented as an illustration of excellence at NHTSA's annual conference, held this September in Mississippi.

The annual National Transportation Public Affairs Workshop (NTPAW), a division of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), presented RIDOT with an Honorable Mention Award for the Best Press Release, Video News Release, or Story Printed in Media, this September in Michigan.

In October the National Commission Against Drunk Driving (NCADD) announced that RIDOT had won First Place in

their Education and Prevention category. Awards will be presented at a ceremony to be held in Washington D.C. on November 30.

"Awards like these show how well Rhode Island stacks up against the other states. It is a great honor to continue to be recognized for the work done by RIDOT's Office of Communications and GOHS," said William D. Ankner, Ph.D., RIDOT's director.

Dana Alexander Nolfie is the Chief of RIDOT's Office of Communications; Edward J. Walsh, Governor's Office on Highway Safety Administrator, and their consultant, McMahon Preston Communications, produced the .08 public information and education campaign.

RIDOT's Office of Communications has won four other NTPAW awards including the 1999 Best Issues/Crisis Management, the 1999 Best Audio Public Service Announcements Produced with a Consultant, the 1999 Best Guest Editorial, and the 1998 Best Web Site Produced and Maintained In-House. More information on the .08 campaign on page 7.



**ON THE WAY TO SHOP:** In St. Thomas USVI, that is. Bill Riccio, center, and Fran Segerson, right, spent a week in St. John in September visiting Connie Daniels, left, former RIDOT bike coordinator.

*Printed on recycled paper*

*William D. Ankner, Ph.D.,  
Director*



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